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DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION

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October 18, 2001

U.S. Department of Transportation, Room PL 401  
400 Seventh Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20590-0001

Attention: Docket Number RSPA-98-4952 (HM-223) - 331

**SUBJECT: Reinstatement of the Southern California Public Meeting**

Dear Sirs,

The Torrance Fire Department is responsible for enforcing the California Health and Safety Code and the Uniform Fire Codes with respect to regulating hazardous materials within our jurisdiction. Torrance is located about 10 miles south of the city of Los Angeles and contains a refinery and several large chemical plants surrounded by densely populated neighborhoods. Our community is concerned about transportation issues of hazardous materials due to the many rail and truck shipments that go pass through our city on a daily basis.

We are requesting that the Department of Transportation reinstate the public meeting that was cancelled for October 30<sup>th</sup>. Southern California is one of the most densely populated and industrialized areas of the country. Many issues of concern involving transportation of hazardous materials are of importance such as, railroad storage of hazardous materials outside plant boundaries adjacent to populated neighborhoods needs to be addressed.

In the last few years the DOT rules have been an ongoing issue that originated from this area. However no public meetings by DOT have ever been held in this area. I believe that a public meeting in Southern California will provide an abundance of information to the DOT on rules that affect our community.

**TORRANCE FIRE DEPARTMENT**

Richard V. Bongard, Fire Chief

Kennith M. Hall, Fire Marshal

John D. Kulluk, Ph.D.  
Hazardous Materials Analyst